
MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. N. A. Cravens, private secretary to the Governor, appeared at the bar of the House, and being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor:

Executive Office,
State of Texas,
Austin, March 31, 1905.

To the House of Representatives:

I disapprove and herewith return House bill No. 77, entitled "An Act to only allow the qualified electors of Travis county residing outside of the city of Austin to vote for county superintendent of public instruction," etc. I object to this bill because, in effect, it proposes to deprive qualified electors who may reside within the corporate limits of the city of Austin, which is situated and included within the county of Travis, of the right of suffrage in the matter of participating in the choice and election of a county officer, namely, the county superintendent of public instruction. In my judgment, the Legislature has no power to thus disfranchise legal voters.

Section 2, Article VI, of our Constitution provides that "Every male citizen (subject to none of the disqualifications mentioned in Section 1) who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, and who shall be a citizen of the United States, and who shall have resided in this state one year next preceding an election, and the last six months within the district or county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed a qualified elector." The office of county superintendent of public instruction is a county office as contradistinguished from that of any particular precinct or district of a county, and qualified electors of a county, in my opinion, have the constitutional right to vote for such superintendent without reference to whether they reside at the county site or outside of city boundaries.

S. W. T. LANHAM,
Governor.

The message was read and was referred by the Speaker to the Committee on Education.
